

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY.

Information for Those Seeking Homes in the Garden Spot of the West.

Pinal county was organized in 1875 from portions of Pima, Maricopa and Yavapai counties, and contains an area of 5,400 square miles, or 3,435,200 acres, one-third of which could be made productive by a systematic reclamation of the surplus water now running to waste. Next to Maricopa it is the most important agricultural county in the Territory. It is traversed from east to west by the Southern Pacific railroad, and a branch of the great Santa Fe system is now approaching from the north. The objective point of this road is a connection with the main line of the same system. The Southern Pacific is also building in this direction from Tempe, and it is confidently expected that work will not cease until the great Santa Fe line is reached and connection is made with another branch of that road running from Globe to Phoenix and completed to Fort Thomas.

A RAILROAD CENTER.

At present it contains a population of about 1500, but with the completion of these railroads and the Santa Fe reservoir no its Arizona can approach in natural advantages, and a large increase in population will follow. Florence is at an elevation of 1400 feet above sea level, situated near the Pinal river, twenty-six miles northwest of the railroad station of Casa Grande, with which it is connected by an elegantly equipped daily stage line. Going and coming stages run by the old Casa Grande ruins, and passengers are allowed a short time to inspect them. There are many handsome private residences in Florence, several brick houses, good hotels, an excellent graded school employing four teachers, churches, secret societies, a Commercial Club, two newspapers, and the handsome court house in the Territory. Here is held the United States Court for the district composed of Gila, Graham and Pinal counties. The streets are lined with shade trees, which impart an air of comfort on the warmest days.

PRODUCTS OF THE VALLEY.

Unlike the Salt River, the waters of the Pinal are fresh and pure; the soil contains alkali, is a deep, rich gray ash, especially adapted to the growth of the prune, olive, almond, peach, fig, pear, apricot and fruits of all kinds, which pay largely on the investment. It is also the natural home of alfalfa, which grows in the most prolific manner. The grape does exceptionally well in this valley, and wine and raisin culture is destined to become a prominent industry. Citrus fruits have been cultivated to a limited extent; there are a number of orange trees in the neighborhood of Florence which bear their golden fruit each year without protection, and a few date palm trees are also a full bearing. The season is from six weeks to two months earlier than Southern California, which gives fruit growers an appreciated advantage in

THE EARLY MARKETS.

The absence of fogs and nights dew is a considerable obstacle to the destructive and insidious scale-bug, and the fruits of the valley are all bright and clean. All the agricultural products of temperate and semi-tropical zones are easily grown here, the one season giving a succession of crops half double or treble the productive value of the land.

PRICES OF LAND.

Improved lands, with government title and water right can be bought for from \$20 to \$50 per acre, according to location and improvements. In the immediate neighborhood and to the south of the Casa Grande ruins there are thousands of acres covered by a heavy growth of mesquite timber yet to be settled. These are among the choicest in the valley. Water in luxuriant quantity is found at a depth of from twenty to thirty feet; in fact, a river seems to be flowing underneath. Here is a splendid opportunity to take up and improve and with a pumping system of irrigation, which is said to be successful on small tracts. However, with the completion of the Santa Fe reservoir, pumping will be a thing of the past, and it is only mentioned here for the purpose of showing what can be done, and to magnify the further fact that what has been considered

AN UNINHABITABLE DESERT.

In truth the most productive land on the globe, and that there is water in abundance to bring every foot of it under cultivation, only waiting for the magic wand of capital to develop it. There is no water-storage scheme on the Pacific coast that has one of the natural advantages and so few an insurmountable difficulties as the Santa Fe reservoir. Here nature has built the abutments a ever-living rock, and all that is left for man to do is to put in the headgate, the locks which form the gorge being only separated by a paltry 200 feet. A country is gained through this narrow canyon 200 miles square, representing 40,000 square miles, or larger than Maine and Massachusetts combined. The rainfall is sufficient to fill the reservoir twice a year, and the land to be brought under cultivation is practically limitless. This may read like a fairy tale, but is every word true, and has been verified time and again.

CASA GRANDE RESERVOIR.

The reservoir of the Casa Grande Valley and company is the largest in the Territory. It covers a surface of 1600 acres, with an average depth of 12 feet, and contains about eight thousand million gallons of water. It is situated fifteen miles southwest of Florence. A levee of earth has been thrown up across a depression in the plain 1,600 feet in length, 125 feet in width at the bottom and 25 feet in width at top, 2 to 1 on each side, and an average height of 12 feet. The waste is regulated by 3 cast on pipes 3 feet in diameter, set in solid masonry, regulated by gates and towers. Its reservoir cost \$150,000, and supplies water for 6,000 acres.

Meteorological Statistics.

Month	Mean	Max.	Min.
January	46.0	111	21
February	46.5	112	20
March	47.0	113	21
April	47.5	114	22
May	48.0	115	23
June	48.5	116	24
July	49.0	117	25
August	49.5	118	26
September	49.0	117	25
October	48.5	116	24
November	48.0	115	23
December	47.5	114	22

March	46.7	112	20
April	46.1	109	19
May	47.4	104	15
June	48.7	113	24
July	47.0	112	24
August	48.5	110	22
September	47.5	108	20
October	47.4	98	16
November	45.4	90	25
December	45.2	81	28

SUNSHINE IS UNKNOWN.

In fact, in a residence of twenty-one years in Arizona the writer has only known two persons to be overcome by the heat, and they recovered. Their condition, however, was more the result of whisky than heat. The air is so dry here that a registered temperature of 110 degrees is not as oppressive as 80 degrees in St. Louis or New York. The Signal Service bureau has recognized this fact, and reports the difference between the apparent and sensible temperature to be fully 30 degrees. At nearly all times there is a pleasant breeze; the nights are invariably cool in the summer, and out-door labor is performed without serious discomfort to either man or beast on the warmest days. Very seldom does the thermometer get below the freezing point in winter, and in the gardens of Florence to-day are castor bean plants two years or more old.

UNTOUCHED BY FROST.

Orange and lemon trees require slight protection during the winter for a year or two, until the wood is sufficiently hardened. While it is a popular thing for one to say that he is "not here for his health," it is an undisputed fact that for all pulmonary ailments no climate on earth is equal to Southern Arizona, and there are numbers of active, industrious citizens, with but one lung, who came here years ago, expecting to live but a few weeks. But for all that, the wonderful Casa Grande valley is something better than a health resort. That portion of the great Casa Grande valley lying along the line of the Southern Pacific railway in the vicinity of Casa Grande and Arizona is at present, and with good reason, considered one of the most desirable portions of this magnificent Southern Arizona. Great changes have been made in the appearance of this part of the valley during the last ten years. It was about that long ago that the Florence canal was completed and the work of actual improvement begun. It is useless to deny that under our present water system there is nothing like a sufficient water to irrigate this vast body of land.

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY CANAL.

Is forty-three miles in length and covers 60,000 acres of land, about 7,000 of which are under cultivation. It is so constructed that it can be easily enlarged and its capacity increased. A reservoir covering 1,500 acres, having storage capacity of eight billion gallons, in the southeast corner of township 6, range 8, gives ample supply of water to the year round to all farmers located below it, but those above suffer by a shortage of water during a few weeks in summer. It is proposed to remedy this by the construction of a huge reservoir near San Carlos, which would store 28,330 acre-feet of water, capable of irrigating 140,000 acres of land. All of this land would be in the vicinity of Florence. The estimated cost of the dam is \$1,085,928. This survey was made by order of Congress, for which \$20,000 was appropriated. Mr. J. D. Schuyler, of Los Angeles, the noted irrigation engineer, fully verifies Mr. Lippincott's report, and strongly urges upon Congress the duty of constructing the work. A dam 300 feet in height, which Mr. Schuyler considers perfectly feasible, would store 150,000 acre-feet of water and the reservoir would have a life of sixty-three years without dredging. The report says: "In the event of the construction of this dam there will be built up in the valley of the Gila river, where a desert now exists, a community of fully 40,000 souls and the creation of many million dollars of taxable wealth without permanent outlay on the part of the Government." A bill is now before Congress for the construction of the work, and there is little doubt of its passage when its merits become known.

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 4.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

We, your Memorialists, the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, respectfully represent that the National Irrigation Congress, held in Phoenix, Arizona, on the 11th of December, A.D. 1896, unanimously adopted the following:

Whereas, The Pima and Maricopa Indians, tribes numbering in the aggregate ten thousand souls, have been deprived of the waters used by them in irrigation before the advent of the white race in America, through the appropriation of such waters by settlers on the headwaters of the Gila river; and

Whereas, Through the loss of such waters the lands once cultivated by these tribes have become barren and worthless, and the members of such tribes have become a charge on the Government, and forced by the loss of their fields into lives of degradation and penury; and

Whereas, Such tribes have from the earliest days been the friends and allies of the white race; and

Whereas, The people of the United States have pledged themselves by solemn treaty to protect such tribes in their property and property rights; and

Whereas, The Government of the United States has and now is engaged in the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the construction of works of irrigation for the reclamation of lands belonging to other Indian tribes; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Congress do approve the proposed construction, under the plans of the U. S. Geological Survey, of the Buttes reservoir, in Pinal county, Arizona, recently reported, to again reclaim the lands of these tribes, believing that by so doing can the Government alone honorably redeem the broken pledges made by it to these people, and thus preserve from further want and degradation two of the surviving Indian tribes of the American continent that have always been the constant friends of the white race.

Resolved, That we approve the proposed construction of such reservoir not only as just and philanthropic, but as economical and good policy, as in a comparatively short time the expense of maintaining such Indians as Government charges will far exceed the cost of the irrigation works required to

make them a self-supporting and self-respecting community. Now, therefore, your Memorialists, the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, desire to go on record as earnestly endorsing the above recommendations of the Sixth National Irrigation Congress for the following reasons:

1. The reservoir site referred to having been withdrawn from entry by Government authorities, cannot now be utilized by any private corporation, and the Government therefore occupies the indefensible position of doing nothing itself or allowing any one else to improve this great natural reservoir site.

2. We firmly believe that the interests of humanity dictate that the Indians should be gathered on the reservations, have lands allotted to them in severalty, and that they be furnished with farming implements and an inexhaustible supply of water for irrigation of their lands, to the end that they may become self-supporting. By this means will a home life be furnished for the Indian and he will more rapidly advance in civilization as a consequence. He will abandon his nomadic life; his children will be kept at home and educated in neighborhood schools, instead of being sent to large Indian schools at a distance where they are kept (as it would seem) for mere purposes of show. After being instructed in the arts of civilization for a time they are returned to savagery, to become more unhappy and discontented than if they had never received the questionable advantages. We feel that the present policy of the Indian department is all wrong in this regard.

3. The Pima and Maricopa Indian reservation contains 350,000 acres of as fertile land as lies within the boundaries of Arizona, and is admirably adapted for homes for these people, as well as the wandering Papagos, who are now compelled to prey upon the herds of our farmers and ranchmen for subsistence.

4. The construction of a storage reservoir at the Buttes by the Government offers a plain business proposition for the correction of these evils. Resolved, that the Secretary of the Territory be instructed to transmit a copy of the foregoing Memorial to our Delegate and Delegate-elect in Congress, and also a copy each to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

It is customary for the outgoing president and the incoming president to ride to inauguration together. As Senator Hanna has been selected to ride with President McKinley the question arises: Is Mr. Hanna just ending or just beginning his executive term? —Bryan's Commoner.

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2:15p 10:00a	Kansas City	7:10a 8:30a
1:45p 9:30a	La Junta	6:40a 8:00a
1:15p 9:00a	Denver	6:10a 7:30a
10:45a 7:10p	Trinidad	5:40a 7:00a
9:25p 6:35p	Albuquerque	5:10a 6:30a
1:00p 12:30p	Ash Fork	4:40a 6:00a
12:30p 1:00p	Barstow	4:10a 5:30a
1:00p 12:30p	Los Angeles	3:40a 5:00a
1:45p 10:00a	San Diego	3:10a 4:30a

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